

evinced a predilection for sawing bones or regulating sluggish livers. One would naturally think she would prefer some calling having less disagreeable features about it; but, as the song has it, we didn't think she would do it, but—she did. America is certainly the El Dorado of women physicians. They are now to be found in almost every town, small or large. It is estimated that there are at least twenty-three hundred women doctors now practicing in the United States and their number is largely augmented every year. This is exclusive of the numerous female dentists, who, of course, call themselves doctors. Most everyone of these women have earned their diplomas with high honors, and the world at large is much the gainer by these feminine practitioners. Let no man beguile himself into the belief that they have but a superficial knowledge of their calling. Women doctors or doctresses are, taken as a class and considering their number, far more painstaking and closer students than many of the men in the medical profession.

A Valuable Manuscript.

A hitherto unknown work of Maimonides, the greatest Jewish theologian and philosopher of the middle ages, has been discovered by Prof. Gaster among a number of Hebrew manuscripts which he acquired from the east, and is soon to be published by him, with a translation and notes. It is a short treatise written in Hebrew, entitled "Commentary on the Sacred and Profane Names of God in the Pentateuch, by Rabbi Moses ben Maimon," intended as a guide to the scribes of the Sacred Scroll, who, if they made a mistake, could erase and rewrite the profane names of strange deities, but might not erase the sacred names of God, and so must copy over the whole column.

Telephones in Church.

Supporters of the telephonic system in Birmingham can now be placed in communication with Christ church in that city and practically take part in the services. The telephone wires run straight into the pulpit, and the listeners at the other end of the system can hear the tolling of the bell, the prayers, the responses, the singing and the sermon. Even casual coughing among the congregation can be distinguished. There are many classes of persons on whom this new departure confers a great boon. The sick and bedridden, who have long been prevented from attending any place of worship, can now be present, if not in flesh, in the hearing.

An Ancient Town.

Kempfen, in Germany, will soon celebrate the six hundredth anniversary of its existence with a festival procession representing the history of Germany from the German warriors of Caesar's time to the soldiers who fought against Napoleon. In the procession will be represented Thomas a Kempis, the writer of the "Imitation of Christ," who was a native of the town.

PRINCE KUNG.

Checked Career of the New Chinese Commander in Chief.

Prince Kung, who has been appointed commander in chief of the Chinese armies, is one of the oldest, but not the ablest, Manchu politicians in the imperial court at Peking. He is a younger brother of the emperor, Hien Fung and is about seventy-two years of age. It is said that the years have told upon him, and he is but a shadow of his former self, both physically and intellectually. On account of the high position due to his relationship to the crown, he has been brought more into prominence than his abilities at any time warranted. His official status made him the second most important person in the imperial clan, his only superior being the emperor himself. Through his relationship he takes the name of Kung Tsin-Wang, in which Kung means prince, and Tsin-Wang implies the highest branch of kinship. As translated into English, "Prince Kung" is a term which is liable to produce an erroneous impression. Kung is not the name of either a person or a place, but of a title. It is merely a general description or epithet which might apply to many individuals.

The person bearing this title receives an annual salary from the imperial treasury of fifteen thousand dollars, a retinue of three hundred and sixty servants, one for every day of the Chinese year, and clothing, palace and food for the support of himself, his family and all his subordinates. In the blue book of China his allowance from year to year has never fallen below seventy-five thousand dollars, and in the times of his greatest prosperity it has exceeded one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. In addition to this handsome revenue he is entitled to salary and fees in the various positions which he may hold from time to time.

Kung's career has been a very checked one. In his best years he has held as many as fifteen offices, whose net return was annually over three hundred thousand dollars, and on the other hand, in seasons of retirement or of disgrace, all of his positions have been taken away from him. Despite his ups and downs he is a very rich man and wields a tremendous power in the empire.

Upon the death of the old emperor in 1860, Kung was appointed joint regent with the two dowager empresses, his sisters-in-law, and there held sway for twelve years. His administration was marked by many reforms, by appreciation and adoption of European methods and by the recognition and promotion of the leaders of the liberal or progressive party, among whom were Li Hung Chang and others of lesser note. During this period the great Taiping rebellion occurred, and was finally suppressed through the assistance of the great powers and a troop of foreign mercenaries at whose head was "Chinese" Gordon; the Mohammedan insurrection which at one time threatened the western half of the empire was utterly crushed; the uprising in the north-

west was defeated and several small wars with Tartar tribes in Mongolia and Manchuria were brought to a successful termination. On one occasion he admitted to Lord Elgin that he understood but little of modern warfare and relied entirely upon those familiar with its principles and practices.

He also opened up diplomatic intercourse with foreign nations and was instrumental in establishing many of the present treaty ports. He was a great friend of "Chinese" Gordon, although the latter regarded him as thoroughly unscrupulous and treacherous.

HE LIVED AS A GIRL.

Extraordinary Experience of a Youth in the Swiss Alps.

An extraordinary story of a young man passing as a girl all his life until a month or two ago is just related from Treschatel, in the Alpine district of Switzerland. He was known by the name of Laura Besnar, and came of a good family. Why his friends should have registered the child as a female and subsequently kept up the deception is a matter of mystery. The young man is said to have found the companionship of the weaker sex very pleasant, and would probably have continued to frequent the society of young women as one of their number had he not fallen in love, but in order to woo and win the lady of his choice he declared his proper sex.

The earlier years of his life were spent in a convent school, on leaving which he studied a cure for stammering and subsequently founded a school for that purpose. This was so successful that in a few years he amassed forty thousand francs, and then decided to study medicine. With this object he was entered as a student at Grenoble school of medicine as a woman, and to all outward appearances was one.

His features were distinctly feminine, and nothing in the shape of a mustache or whiskers was to be observed. In every way he comported himself as a female and seemed quite at ease in the character he assumed. The only thing which might have betrayed him, perhaps, was a slight suspicion of the masculine in his voice. This, however, was scarcely sufficient to attract special notice.

The young man has been married and as a husband he has already become acquainted with the hardships of the rougher sex, for sad to relate he is registered for military service in 1895.

Eugenie's Hand.

It is being told of Eugenie that on a late visit to Paris she went "incog." to a fashionable palmist to have her fortune read. As part of the necromancer's art is not to see his fair patients, she had to put her hand through a slit in a screen. After quite a cursory examination the fortune teller said: "Madame, your hand is so extraordinary that one of two things must be the truth: Either my skill must be at fault for once, and I see impossible events, or you must be Empress Eugenie, for no other hand could tell of such strange occurrences."